

CLAIMS

1. A laminated body contact support element (1), for a mattress, cushion or the like including an inner layer (4) of viscoelastic foam material and an air permeable outer layer (5) of stretchable material laminated onto a top surface (6) of the viscoelastic foam layer (4), characterised in that the outer layer (5) comprises a highly breathable three dimensional fabric which forms an air layer above the viscoelastic foam layer (4).
5
- 10 2. A laminated support as claimed in claim 1 wherein the outer layer (5) comprises a spacer fabric (7, 8, 9).
- 15 3. A laminated support (1) as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the outer layer (5) comprises a spaced knitted fabric having a pair of spaced-apart knitted layers (7, 8) with spacer yarns (9) extending between said knitted layers (7, 8), one of said knitted layers (7) being laminated onto the top surface (6) of the viscoelastic foam layer (4).
- 20 4. A laminated support (1) as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the maximum stretch of the outer layer (5) material is less than the breaking stretch of the underlying viscoelastic foam layer (4) material.
- 25 5. A laminated support (1) as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the tensile strength of the outer layer (5) material is greater than the tensile strength of the viscoelastic foam layer (4) material.
6. A laminated support (1) as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the outer layer (5) is of knitted polyester material.
- 30 7. A laminated support (1) as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the outer layer (5) has a thickness in the range 0.5mm to 30mm.
8. A laminated support (1) as claimed in claim 7 wherein the outer layer (5) has a thickness in the range 3mm to 6mm.

- 9 -

9. A laminated support (1) as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the outer layer (5) has a stretchability in the range 20% to 200%.
- 5 10. A laminated support (1) as claimed in claim 9 wherein the outer layer (5) has a stretchability in the range 40% to 140%.
11. A laminated support (1) as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the outer layer (5) is adhesively bonded to the viscoelastic layer (4).
- 10 12. A laminated support (30) as claimed in any preceding claim wherein outer layers (5) are bonded to both the top surface (6) and a bottom surface (21) of the viscoelastic layer (4).
- 15 13. A laminated support (20) as claimed in any of claims 1 to 11 wherein the bottom surface (21) of the viscoelastic foam layer (4) is laminated onto a support substrate (22).
- 20 14. A laminated support (1) as claimed in claim 13 wherein the support substrate (22) comprises a standard foam or a combustion modified foam.
15. A laminated support (1) as claimed in any preceding claim further including a vapour permeable outer cover (2).
- 25 16. A mattress incorporating a support element as claimed in any preceding claim.
17. A cushion incorporating a support element as claimed in any of claims 1 to 15.
- 30 18. A pillow incorporating a support element as claimed in any of claims 1 to 15.